

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 15, 2010

To the Members of the United Nations Economic and Social Council:

The 2010 session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) presents an opportunity to support the vital role of civil society at the United Nations. As members of the United States Senate, we urge you to support the application for special consultative status of the Non Governmental Organization (NGO), International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC).

IGLHRC is a respected human rights organization with offices in the United States and other countries. In supporting the work of ECOSOC and the UN Charter, IGLHRC promotes the implementation of human rights treaties. It assists non-governmental organizations to prepare and submit documentation to the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council, the UN Special Procedures, and the treaty bodies. IGLHRC is committed to combating discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights.

It is our understanding that IGLHRC applied for consultative status over three years ago, and has since responded to a number of questions and requests for information. In June at the NGO Committee of ECOSOC, a motion of "no action" on the call for a vote to decide on the consultative status application of IGLHRC was successful. Our understanding is that this was an extraordinary use of the no-action motion to prevent the NGO Committee from making a decision on an NGO's application and this should not be allowed to stand. It would be very unfortunate if this procedural mechanism would be used to prevent an NGO that is highly regarded by the U.S. Department of State and the human rights community from being fully considered for consultative status.

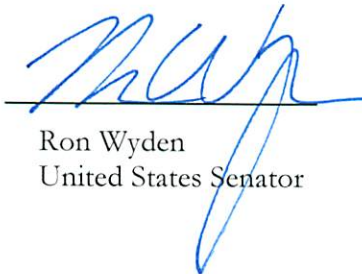
We urge you to support IGLHRC's application for consultative status at ECOSOC. Diversity of civil society at the United Nations is essential to respecting, protecting and promoting the human rights of all people and to achieving sustainable peace and human security.

Sincerely,



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Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
United States Senator



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Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



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Jeff Merkley  
United States Senator